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was in the earlier days of their training, instead of keeping in touch with the development and improvement in our schools! E. M. of West Virginia, writes as if she thought all schools are now and ever will be of the type she trained in.

Florence Nightingale, the most cultivated woman probably that has ever trained as a nurse, did not do her great work in the destructive spirit of criticism but in a constructive spirit, trying to cast aside what was bad to make room for what was better.

Massachusetts.

SARA E. PARSONS

LETTERS FROM NAVY NURSES

III

DEAR EDITOR: The arrival of the transport is the event of greatest interest, bringing new faces, mail from loved ones and friends, and the JOURNAL, our connecting link with professional activities. The day is prolonged indefinitely until we receive, and read our mail; and then follows the writing period. Our answers are carried to Manila on the next transport. No wonder Sister says the dates on my letters make her dizzy! And real answers mean repeated questions, since the subject matter of the home letters has long since been forgotten. Only those who have been isolated, as we are, can form any idea of the avidity with which we receive "news" and how catholic we become regarding the kind of news.

The Chamorros continue to be very kindly disposed toward us and there has not been the slightest friction with the native nurses. We are obliged to teach by practical demonstration and when a treatment is learned or a system established, everything runs smoothly. Let there be the least change, however (such as a different hour for a medication), and a great disturbance is felt. I doubt if we shall ever be able to have them use any other than a 1-2000 bichloride solution!

The babies have improved wonderfully under a more methodical system of feeding and cleansing and the mothers show their appreciation by appearing at our quarters with a live chicken, some eggs or flowers. Usually these articles are silently thrust upon us and the donor beats a hasty retreat.

The dress of the young native women has been changed "by order of the governor." Formerly these school girls wore trains, but short skirts for small girls are now in vogue. I have not been able to discover that there is a distinction in caste. In Tutuila, you know, the pure blood women never attempt any deviation from the native costume, but it may be there is no pure strain left in Guam.

We have assisted at three laparotomies; the last was a native of Trinidad whose three hundred pounds did not prevent her from riding a bicycle. All have been tractable patients, they are doing well, and the medical officers seem particularly pleased with the result.

Miss H., one of the teachers, asked for some sewing for the schools. We cut out about three dozen gowns which are to be distributed among the pupils. The women patients are also helping, and crib sheets are being rapidly made, but I doubt if we shall ever catch up with the demand. We are testing the sewing possibilities of the Islanders in another way. Miss C.'s trunk did not arrive and has not yet materialized. We obtained drilling from the stores and have found a Japanese tailor who has attempted the uniform skirt, while a kindly native woman has earned our gratitude and money by making the waists.

"Spare the rod and spoil the child" is the law of the Islands, and our doctors have accepted the natural law. Dr. Q., in making rounds, borrows one of the native nurses' mules (slippers), and applies the treatment to the obstreperous child in passing. The little brownies were not long in sensing my disinclination for this mode of punishment, though it was unexpressed. As you know, I am a large woman, and standing in the ward, in the starched fulness of uniform, I present somewhat the appearance of a ship in full sail while the brown tots peeping from the haven of my spread skirts may be said to resemble little "dugouts." Even Dr. Q., is constrained to smile at the appearance we present. It is with some pride that I record that punishments are less necessary since our advent.

We have enjoyed the amusements of the Island such as tennis and cards, and an occasional dinner party, while the more energetic member has become an expert horsewoman and has prevailed upon Miss C., to join her in taking Spanish lessons. Our home life is simple but requires attention and the combined duties together with the necessary relaxation during the heated period of the day fully occupy my time. When entirely acclimated, we hope to take up other activities.

U. S. Naval Station, Guam, September.

E. L.

In correction of a statement made in the April JOURNAL, advice lately received from New Jersey states that the proposed amendments formed by the New Jersey State Nurses' Association were not passed at the recent session of the legislature.